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charges, etc., in connexion with the inspection of the Laccadive and Minicoy Islands conducted this year by the officer and his party specially deputed by the Government for this purpose?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Rs. 1,40,454-1-10.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMMED SHAFEE : May I know whether this amount of expenditure is incurred from the ex-chequer every year or every two years? In view of the fact that the expenditure that the Government will have to bear will be less than the amount now mentioned in case a steamer service is established, will the Hon. Minister consider the establishment of a steamer service from the mainland to the islands?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Sir, the expenditure pertains to this year's inspection. With regard to the steamer service, the Government of India is being reminded.

DR. K. B. MENON : This suggestion, I believe, was made by the Governor of Madras a few months ago. Will the Government see that his recommendation is carried out as expeditiously as possible?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The recommendations of this Government are being examined by the Government of India and they have been reminded in this connection.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, a sum of about Rs. 1½ lakhs was spent on passage by the authorities to supervise the administration. May I know what amount was actually spent on the administration itself during this period?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : A separate question should be put.

* 2397 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether this Government have suggested to the Central Government the taking over of the administration of the Laccadive groups of island on the West Coast by the Centre; and

(*b*) if so, whether the proposal has been accepted?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Question Nos. 2398 and 2399 may be taken together.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Question No. 2423 may also be taken together.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : These questions may be answered now. We shall take up question No. 2423 later.